New York Called Key City In Heroin Flow Into U.S.

By RICHARD L. MADDEN

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 16—The Government said today that New York was the main distribution point for heroin smuggled into the United States through circuitous routes from Europe.

The world opium survey, made public today by the State Department, said that three "basic smuggling routes" were used to transport heroin from Europe to the United States, but it added:

"Regardless of the smuggling route, however, most of the heroin entering the United States apparently winds up in New York before being distributed to other parts of the country."

The report did not estimate how much heroin flowed through New York or describe how it was distributed elsewhere in the nation.

3 Routes Identified

The three basic smuggling routes were described as running from Europe directly to the United States or through Canada, from Europe by way of Mexico, and from Europe by way of various other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

"The direct Europe-United States route is the oldest French heroin smuggling route and remains the most active," the report said. It said that such a direct routeavoided the need for a foreign middleman and offered the advantage of concealing a shipment in a volume of trans-Atlantic commerce with only one customs check. But "the risk to the French traffickers is much greater, since the arrest of a courier in the United States has often implicated the entire trafficking group," the report declared.

French narcotics traffickers may use Canada as an alternate point of entry into the United States "in the belief that customs inspection in Canada and on the Canada-United States border are more relaxed than on the East Coast of the United States, particularly when French passengers are involved," the report said.

Connection Little Known

"Although little is known about French-Latin American connections, it appears that well organized smuggling rings in Latin America purchase large quantities of heroin from French traffickers and then arrange for its transport and sale in the United States," according to the report.

"Many of the leaders of these Latin American groups are ethnic French Corsicans and ethnic Italians who have close ties with their countrymen in Europe. Some of these groups have been smuggling various types of contraband goods for many years and have added heroin to their established smuggling trade."

French heroin, the report said, is believed to enter Latin America primarily through Buenos Aires and Montevideo, with much of the clandestine traffic passing through Panama.

To illustrate the enormous profit and mark-up involved, the report said that the price paid to a farmer in Turkey for a given amount of raw opium was the equivalent of $22. That opium processed into a kilogram of pure heroin would bring $220,000 in New York. The heroin reaching the addict is greatly adulterated.

Estimated Illicit Opium Output, by Major Producers, 1971

(In metric tons)

India	100
Afghanistan	100
Turkey	35-80
Pakistan	20-160
Burma, Thailand and Laos	700
Mexico	10-20
Other*	20-50
Total	990-1,210**

*Mainly Eastern Europe.

**Additional amounts probably are produced in Latin America, North Africa and the Far East.

Illicit Market Prices, from Production to Distribution of Heroin

(Dollars per kilogram)

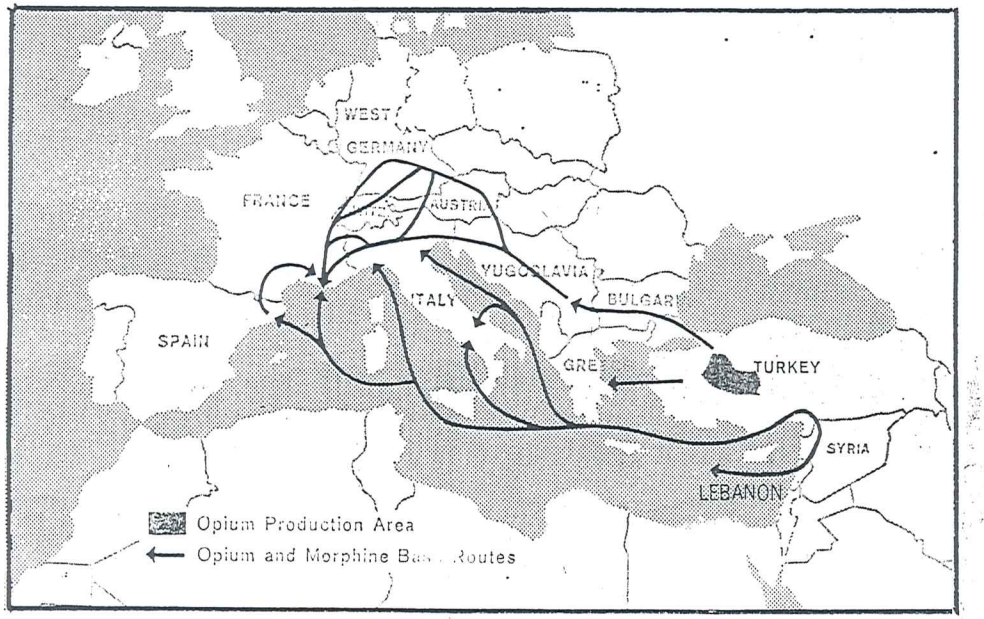
Price to farmer for opium (in Turkey)	$22
Wholesale price for heroin* (Marseilles)	5,000
Border price for heroin (New York)	10,000
Wholesale price for heroin (New York)	22,000
Retail price for heroin (New York)	220,000**

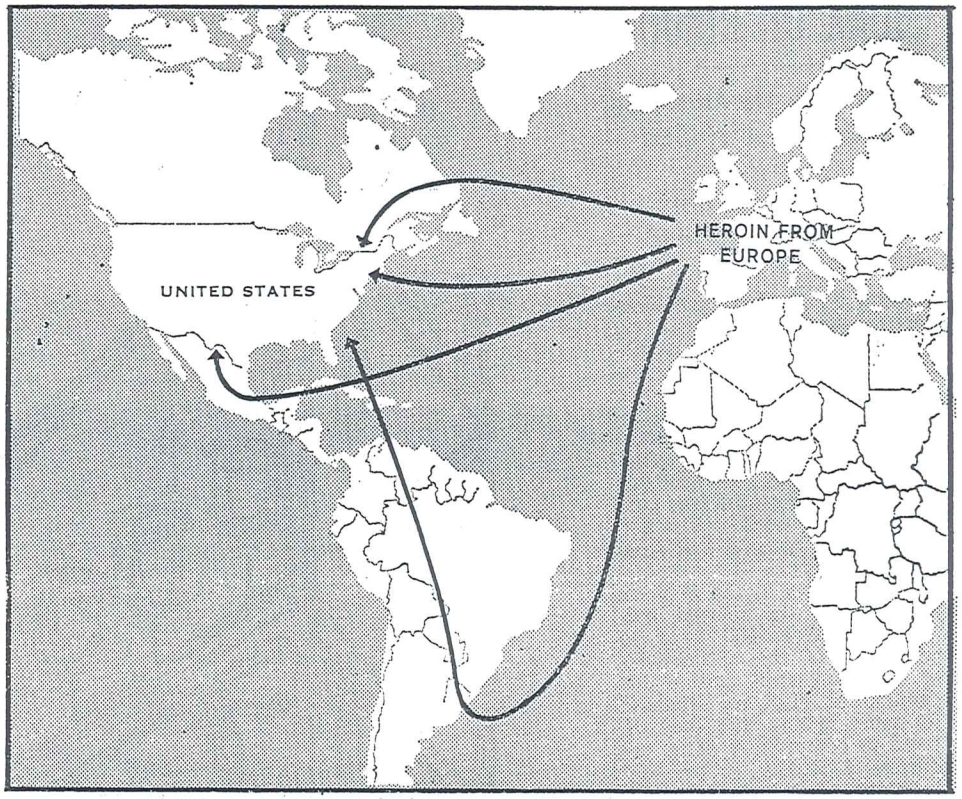
*When raw opium is converted to morphine and heroin, the volume is reduced by a ratio of 10:1.

**If sold as pure heroin. In fact, heroin is greatly adulterated when it reaches the addict: the price for adulterated heroin—40% purity—would be about $88,000 per kilogram.

THE TURKEY-US NETWORK

Opium and Morphine Base Movement from Turkey to W. Europe



The three maps on this page—showing the movement of illicit drugs—and the two tables on production and prices were adapted from the official United States Government report "World Opium Survey 1972," which was prepared over nine months under the auspices of the Cabinet Committee on International Narcotics Control.

Heroin Movement Routes from Europe to the United States